



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2007 – 7:00 P.M.
UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM & AUDITORIUM
62 CAPRON STREET, UXBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

WORCESTER, S.S.

TO EITHER OF THE CONSTABLES OF THE TOWN, IN SAID COUNTY;

GREETINGS:

IN THE NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, YOU ARE DIRECTED TO NOTIFY THE INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF UXBRIDGE, QUALIFIED TO VOTE IN THE TOWN ELECTIONS AND IN TOWN AFFAIRS, TO MEET AT THE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, IN PRECINCT 2, IN SAID UXBRIDGE, ON THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES TO WIT:

ARTICLE 1: REPORTS

To hear the report of any outstanding committee and act thereon.

SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen

MOTION: Move to receive and file any reports.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: No recommendation (6-0).

VOTE NEEDED: N/A

ARTICLE 2: PRIOR YEAR BILLS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds such sums as required to pay prior fiscal year's bill(s), or take any other action related thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager¹

Commentary: FY06 invoice that had inadvertently not been processed or paid.

MOTION: Move that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the amounts as stated in the following chart for any purpose for which funds may be expended from the latter accounts, each item being considered a separate appropriation for FY07:

AMOUNT	FROM	TO AND FOR
\$3,500.00	Stabilization	School Dept. Annual Audit

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable action (6-0).

VOTE NEEDED: Requires a 4/5 vote.

ARTICLE 3: FY07 INTER/INTRA DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to balance certain line items within the FY07 budget approved under Article 7 of the May 9, 2006, Annual Town Meeting, or take any other action relative thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

Commentary: Transfers from miscellaneous Town department line items to others which are needed to fund FY07 anticipated budget deficiencies; additional appropriation from Stabilization as noted.

¹ The BOS voted on 2/26/07 for the Town Manager to sponsor certain articles under the responsibility of the Town Manager.

This combined Warrant is a courtesy document; motions may change and are not intended to restrict any action.

MOTION: Move that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the amounts as stated in the following chart for any purpose for which funds may be expended from the latter accounts, each item being considered a separate appropriation for FY07:

From	Amount	To	Amount
School Roof Boiler Art 06 Nov 04	72,225.00	School Town Building Maintenance	72,225.00
Board of Health Salaries	23,000.00	Board of Health Expenses	23,000.00
Town Clerk Salaries	1,000.00	Treasurer/Collector Salaries	1,000.00
Fire Salaries	3,000.00	Fire Expenses	3,000.00
Police Salaries	33,900.00	Police Expenses	21,900.00
		Data Processing Expenses	12,000.00
Library Expenses	1,500.00	Library Salaries	1,500.00
Data Processing Expenses	4,036.00	Computer Lease/Purchase	4,036.00
Election & Registration Expense	10,000.00	Election & Registration Salaries	10,000.00
Treasurer/Collector Expenses	20,000.00	Street Lighting Expenses	16,000.00
		COA Salaries	1,300.00
		Celebrations	700.00
		Pout Pond Expenses	1,000.00
		Historical Commission	500.00
		Building Dept	500.00
Moderator	100.00	Selectmen/Town Manager Salaries	6,714.00
Town Accountant Salaries	24,955.00	Selectmen/Town Manager Expenses	35,000.00
Town Hall Expense	12,500.00	Assessors Salaries	1,400.00
Property & Liability	5,384.00	Town Counsel Expenses	65,000.00
Debt Service	20,000.00	Town Hall Salaries	150.00
Stabilization	144,302.00	Lighting U.S. Flag Common	1,150.00
		Tree Warden Salary	113.00
		Worker's Comp	22,714.00
		Health Insurance	75,000.00
Grand Total	\$375,902.00	Grand Total	\$375,902.00

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RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable action (6-0). The list includes a transfer from Stabilization for the project to address issues in the accounting system, to fund Town Counsel expenses and to fund increases in insurance and workers compensation costs.

VOTE NEEDED: Requires simple majority provided none of the money is coming from Stabilization. Stabilization requires a 2/3 vote.

ARTICLE 4: APPROPRIATIONS FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT(S)

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate and/or appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund salary increases and other cost-items resulting from contract settlements with union personnel, or take any other action relative thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

Commentary: This was a placeholder in case the Police Union contract was settled by this date.

MOTION: No motion.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: No recommendation. There will be no motion on the article.

VOTE NEEDED: N/A

ARTICLE 5: TOWN BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to fix compensation of all elected officials of the town, provide for a reserve fund, determine sums to be raised and appropriated, including those from available funds, in order to defray expenses including debt and interest for fiscal year 2008 (FY08) – approve the budget, or take any other action related thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

Commentary: Please see the attached FY2008 Budget document which includes revenue and expenditure details.

MOTION: Move that \$34,872,088.00 be appropriated, as set forth in the columns headed “FY 2008 Town Manager FinCom/Recommendation” in the budget prepared by the Town Manager and voted by the Finance Committee for recommendation at the Annual Town Meeting on May 8, 2007, as most recently revised; and as funding therefor, to transfer from revenue funds, and raise and appropriate the total sum of \$34,872,088.00, as set forth in the column entitled FY08 projected revenues on the sheet entitled, “Revenue Projections Town Meeting 5/3/07” provided, however, that of the sum of \$19,395,499.00 to be raised by taxation, the sum of \$1,412,910.00 shall be contingent upon approval by the voters of the Town of a so-called Proposition 2 ½ override question at a special election. (5/4/07)

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable action (6-0). The Finance Committee recommends favorable action on the FY08 Budget. The Committee recommends the budget be balanced by a Proposition 2 ½ override of \$1.2 million and cuts and/or a transfer from the Stabilization Account of \$237,910. The Committee will make its recommendations on the \$237,910 at Town Meeting.

For FY08, the Town faces a revenue problem with total revenues increasing only 1.7%. This is the result of a very small (1.4%) growth in State Aid, and the fact that the Town used the Stabilization Account to balance the FY07 Budget. Total revenues are up \$569,320. On the expenditure side, health insurance costs are up \$418,935 (13%), Special Education (SPED) is up \$600,000, and the cost of the Blackstone Valley Tech – due to increased enrollments – is up \$213,849 (14%). Energy and retirement costs are also up. The Town used Free Cash in the amount of \$1,322,542 to balance the FY07 budget.

The Committee is recommending the \$1.2 million override because the Town has a revenue problem. The

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Committee feels: 1) the budget cannot be balanced through expenditure cuts nor; 2) should it be balanced by a transfer from Stabilization. Through the various budget reviews and Town Meeting votes, the community has articulated its view of the town's "core services" (i.e., public safety, schools, social services, etc.). The FY08 Budget can not be balanced without seriously altering these services. The use of the Stabilization Account to balance the FY08 Budget simply defers the problem to the following year, when the problem will be larger.

\$1.2 Million – Tax Impact: The average assessed value for a house in Uxbridge is \$337,000. The override will cost this household \$240 a year – or \$60 a quarter.

The Finance Committee, along with other Town officials, sees the low growth in revenues as a continuing problem. State Aid will continue to be flat and the allowed increase in property taxes (Prop 2 ½) will not be enough to cover rising costs. In addition to meeting operating costs, the tax payer faces important questions on how the Town will pay for capital (infrastructure) costs and the new high school.

VOTE NEEDED: Requires simple majority provided none of the money is coming from Stabilization. Stabilization requires a 2/3 vote.

ARTICLE 6: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM/PROJECTS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds, including funds previously appropriated to other uses, a sum or sums of money to accounts for capital projects to be specified at the Spring Annual Town Meeting, or take any action relative thereto or thereon.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

***Commentary:** This article has been postponed to a Special or Fall Town Meeting once Free Cash has been certified with an expected request for a debt exclusion and/or Proposition 2½ override to fund a comprehensive, multi-year Capital Program (Town and School Depts) as recommended by the Capital Committee.*

MOTION: No motion.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: No recommendation. There will be no motion on the article.

VOTE NEEDED: N/A

ARTICLE 7: SEWER DEPARTMENT BUDGET (ENTERPRISE FUND)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money for the salaries, expenses and debt service of the Sewer Department Enterprise Fund for the ensuing fiscal year, such sums of money to be offset by revenues of the Sewer Department Enterprise Fund received during fiscal year 2008. Said sum to be spent under the direction of the Superintendent of Public Works, or take any other action related thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

MOTION: Move that the sums set forth in the last column below ("FY08 Budget TM Recommended"), up to and including the line entitled "Total" be appropriated to the FY08 Sewer (Waste Water) Department Enterprise Fund Account to be expended for the respective purposes set forth in the third column, each item being considered a separate appropriation.

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Sewer (Waste Water) Dept. Enterprise Fund			FY 07 Budget	FY 08 Budget Dept. Request	FY08 Budget TM Recommended
440100	Wastewater	Salaries	\$287,814.00	\$ 321,201.00	\$ 322,973.00
440200	Wastewater	Expenses	\$539,814.00	\$ 538,994.00	\$ 540,794.00
440700	Wastewater	Debt	\$ 89,178.00	\$ 87,938.00	\$ 87,938.00
440500	Wastewater	Equipment Replacement	\$ -	\$ 263,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
		Subtotal Expenses	\$628,992.00	\$ 889,932.00	\$ 633,732.00
		Total	\$916,806.00	\$1,211,133.00	\$ 956,705.00

\$956,705.00 to come from enterprise revenues.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable action (6-0).

VOTE NEEDED: Requires a simple majority provided none of the money is coming from Stabilization.

ARTICLE 8: WATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET (ENTERPRISE FUND)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money for the salaries, expenses and debt service of the Water Department Enterprise Fund for the ensuing fiscal year, such sums of money to be offset by revenues of the Water Department Enterprise Fund received during fiscal year 2008. Said sum to be spent under the direction of the Superintendent of Public Works, or take any other action related thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

MOTION: Move that the sums set forth in the last column below ("FY08 Budget TM Recommendation"), up to and including the line entitled "Total", be appropriated to the FY08 Water Department Enterprise Fund Account to be expended for the respective purposes set forth in the third column, each item being considered a separate appropriation.

Water Department Enterprise Fund			FY 07 Budget	FY 08 Budget Dept. Request	FY08 Budget TM Recommendation
450100	Water	Salaries	\$307,315.00	\$ 330,532.00	\$ 332,304.00
450200	Water	Expenses	\$341,866.00	\$ 371,426.00	\$ 390,226.00
450700	Water	Debt	\$135,730.00	\$ 259,822.00	\$ 259,822.00
450500	Water	Equipment Replace.	\$ -	\$ 98,000.00	\$ 80,000.00
		Subtotal Expenses	\$477,596.00	\$ 729,248.00	\$ 730,048.00
		Total	\$784,911.00	\$1,059,780.00	\$ 1,062,352.00

\$1,062,352.00 to come from enterprise revenues.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable action (6-0).

VOTE NEEDED: Requires a simple majority provided none of the money is coming from Stabilization.

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ARTICLE 9: AMBULANCE DIVISION BUDGET (ENTERPRISE FUND)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money for the salaries and expenses of the Ambulance Division Enterprise Fund for the ensuing fiscal year, such sums of money to be offset by revenues of the Ambulance Division received during fiscal year 2008. Said sum to be spent under the direction of the Fire Chief, or take any other action related thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

MOTION: Move that the sums set forth in the last column below ("FY08 Budget TM Recommendation"), up to and including the line entitled "Total", be appropriated to the FY08 Ambulance Division Enterprise Fund Account to be expended for the respective purposes set forth in the third column, each item being considered a separate appropriation.

Ambulance Division Enterprise Fund			FY 07 Budget	FY 08 Budget Dept. Request	FY08 Budget TM Recommendation
231100	Ambulance	Salaries	\$342,039.00	\$ 346,645.00	\$ 347,449.00
231200	Ambulance	Expenses	\$121,230.00	\$ 120,787.00	\$ 125,787.00
231500	Ambulance	Special Outlay	\$ 60,000.00	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00
		Subtotal Expenses	\$181,230.00	\$ 120,787.00	\$ 145,787.00
		Total	\$523,269.00	\$ 467,432.00	\$ 493,236.00

\$493,236.00 to come from enterprise revenues.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable action (6-0).

VOTE NEEDED: Requires a simple majority provided none of the money is coming from Stabilization.

ARTICLE 10: CABLE ACCESS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money for the salaries and expenses of the Cable PEG Access for the ensuing fiscal year, such sums of money to be offset by Cable PEG Access "Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account", or take any other action related thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

MOTION: Move that the sums set forth in the last column below ("FY08 Budget TM Recommendation"), up to and including the line entitled "Total" be appropriated to the FY08 Cable PEG Access budget to be expended for the respective purposes set forth in the first column, each item being considered a separate appropriation.

Cable PEG Access		FY 07 Budget	FY 08 Budget Dept. Request	FY08 Budget TM Recommendation
	Salaries	\$ 49,665.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,958.00
	Expenses	\$ 72,335.00	\$ 24,082.00	\$ 24,082.00
	Capital Outlay	\$	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
	Subtotal Expenses	\$ 72,335.00	\$ 74,082.00	\$ 74,082.00
	Total	\$ 122,000.00	\$ 124,082.00	\$ 125,040.00

\$125,040.00 to come from the Cable PEG Access Receipts Reserved for Appropriation.

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RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable action (6-0).

VOTE NEEDED: Requires a simple majority provided none of the money is coming from Stabilization. Stabilization requires a 2/3 vote.

ARTICLE 11: APPROPRIATION TO FUND GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL BUILDING RENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to pay FY08 annual rent and associated costs for utilities in the Good Shepherd School Building, or take any other action related thereto.

SPONSOR: School Committee

MOTION: Move that the town vote to transfer and to appropriate the sum of \$120,000 from Stabilization to the Good Sheppard Lease account # 001-395-5271-0000-000-2-0000-0-0 to pay FY08 annual rent and associated costs for utilities in the Good Shepherd School Building which currently houses Pre-K through Kindergarten classes.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable action (6-1).

VOTE NEEDED: Requires a 2/3 vote.

ARTICLE 12: MASTER PLAN

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and /or transfer from available funds, a sum of money, not to exceed \$120,000, to fund a Town Master Plan, or take any other action related thereto.

SPONSOR: Capital Planning Committee and Finance Committee

MOTION: No motion.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: To pass over and defer the article until the Fall Annual Town Meeting (7-0). The Finance Committee believes that developing a Master Plan is a critical step in the future for the Town. Scheduling issues did not allow a full discussion with the Planning Board, but at the Finance Committee public hearing on the article, the Chair of the Planning Board was in support of this endeavor. Additionally, during the Finance Committee public hearings, several department heads and members of the public expressed interest in being involved in this effort. We recommend deferring this article because of the present budget situation and we encourage those who wanted to take a leadership role in developing the plan to begin the internal process now and the Finance Committee will call the first meeting shortly after the Spring Annual Town Meeting.

VOTE NEEDED: N/A

ARTICLE 13: JOINT RECYCLING PROGRAM WITH TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds \$3,500.00 to fund a joint FY08 recycling program with the Town of Blackstone, or take any other action related thereto.

SPONSOR: Board of Health

***Commentary:** The participation cost has been substantially reduced from FY07. Stickers are sold in the office of the Board of Health.*

MOTION: Move to raise \$3,500.00 and appropriate to account # 002-510-5301-0000-000 to fund a joint recycling program with the Town of Blackstone.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable action (7-0). This is the third year of a program established at a previous Town Meeting.

VOTE NEEDED: Requires a simple majority provided none of the money is coming from Stabilization. Stabilization requires a 2/3 vote.

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ARTICLE 14: CENTRAL MA MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

To see if the Town will vote to become a member in the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 252, Section 5A and other applicable sections of said law, and to raise and appropriate and /or transfer from available funds if applicable for such membership, or take any action relative thereto.

SPONSOR: Board of Health

Commentary: Funding for this program is estimated at \$56,080 to be an assessment on the FY08 Cherry Sheet - a reduction to Cherry Sheet (State Aid) revenue. No appropriation is required.

MOTION: Move to participate in the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable action (5-2). This article funds (\$57,000) Uxbridge becoming a member of the Central Mass Mosquito Control Project. As mosquito based infections increase in Massachusetts, support of this article provides the Town citizens some options to address this issue. This is a trial process and must be refunded each year.

VOTE NEEDED: Requires a simple majority provided none of the money is coming from Stabilization. Stabilization requires a 2/3 vote.

ARTICLE 15: PAY AS YOU THROW TRASH COLLECTION/RECYCLING FUND

To see if the Town vote to establish a Solid Waste and Recycling Enterprise fund pursuant to the provisions of G.L. Ch. 44 sec. 53F ½ to be effective July 1, 2007, or take any action relative thereto.

SPONSOR: Board of Health

Commentary: This action establishes the account, not the program, which will be discussed and presented at a future Town Meeting.

MOTION: Move to establish a Solid Waste and Recycling Enterprise fund pursuant to the provisions of MGL. Ch. 44 sec. 53F ½ to be effective July 1, 2007.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable action (6-0-1). This article sets up an enterprise account and begins the RFP process to implement a service of solid waste and recycling services for the Town. There will need to be a second vote in the future to fund the account once a service provider is chosen.

VOTE NEEDED: Requires a simple majority.

ARTICLE 16: REVOLVING FUND ACCOUNTS

To see if the Town will vote to establish and authorize GLc.44, §53e ½ revolving funds for the continuation of: engineering and legal costs, not to exceed \$50,000, derived from Planning Board fees, under the Planning Board; engineering and legal costs, not to exceed \$15,000, derived from Zoning Board of Appeals fees, under the Zoning Board of Appeals; Library book repairs, not to exceed \$6,000, derived from late fines and fees, under the Library Trustees; recreation program costs, not to exceed \$10,000, to be derived from program fees, under the Recreation Committee; recycling program costs, not to exceed \$2,000, derived from disposal fees, under the Board of Health; engineering costs, not to exceed \$50,000, derived from septic permits and inspection fees, under the Board of Health; compost bin costs, not to exceed \$2,000, derived from compost bin sales, under the Board of Health; or take any other action related thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

Commentary: Annual re-establishment of revolving funds. No appropriation is required; funded by fees charged.

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MOTION: Move to establish and authorize the following 53e ½ revolving funds for the continuation of: Library book repairs, not to exceed \$6,000, derived from late fines and fees, under the Library Trustees; recreation program costs, not to exceed \$10,000, to be derived from program fees, under the Recreation Committee; and recycling program costs, not to exceed \$2,000, derived from disposal fees, under the Board of Health.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable action (7-0). Favorable action is for the Library book repairs, recreation programs and BOH compost bin revolving accounts.

VOTE NEEDED: Requires a simple majority.

ARTICLE 17: PURCHASE OF WELLHEAD PROTECTION LAND

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Water Enterprise Fund to the Water Capital Outlay account # 650.450.5850.5.0004 for the purpose of acquiring +/-4.87 acres of wellhead protection land from the Bouchard family abutting the Blackstone Street well field. Said parcel is more specifically described as Parcel “C” as shown on a plan entitled “Division of Land Blackstone Street Uxbridge Massachusetts” prepared by Andrews Survey and Engineering, Inc, dated 11-09-05 and being a portion of deed 5315/472, Plan Book 319, Plan 108 (map 26, lot 248) owned by William L and Karen Bouchard; or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen (DPW Superintendent)

MOTION: Move to transfer and appropriate \$115,000.00 from the Water Enterprise Fund to the Water Capital Outlay account # 650.450.5850.5.0004 for the purpose of acquiring +/-4.87 acres of wellhead protection land from the Bouchard family abutting the Blackstone Street well field.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable action (7-0). This is a continuation of the Water Management plan developed by the Department of Public Works. This increases the buffer zone around the well fields as specified by MGL.

VOTE NEEDED: Requires a simple majority.

ARTICLE 18: IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$4,600,000.00 for the purpose of improving the Municipal Water Supply System, including the replacement of the 1907 High Street water tank, construction and replacement of water lines from said tank to North Main Street and acquiring any and all easements necessary for the project; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow up to \$4,600,000.00 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws or any other enabling authority; that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to apply for, accept and expend and available federal or state funds or grants and/or gifts of any kind for the purpose of this project; that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project; and further that while this borrowing shall be a general obligation of the Town, it is the intent of the Town that the principle and interest on this borrowing will be paid for from the Water Enterprise Fund and/or the Water System Development Account; or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen (DPW Superintendent)

MOTION: Move to accept Article 18 as printed.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable action (7-0). This is a continuation of the Water Management plan developed by the Department of Public Works.

VOTE NEEDED: Requires a 2/3 vote.

ARTICLE 19: STABILIZATION FUND BY-LAW

This combined Warrant is a courtesy document; motions may change and are not intended to restrict any action.

To see if the Town will vote to accept a new Town By-Law for the Stabilization Fund, By-Law Number _____ Stabilization Fund “ at the Spring Annual Town Meeting the Stabilization Fund shall be increased so that it's balance is equal to 5% of the proposed operating budget” or take any other action relative thereto.

SPONSOR: Finance Committee

MOTION: No motion.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: No action (7-0). The Committee feels strongly that the Town has to become more diligent in funding the Stabilization Fund and keeping the Fund at a suitable level. This allows the Town to keep a strong bond rating and provide funds for Town emergencies. The Committee will establish a financial policy to address this issue.

VOTE NEEDED: N/A

ARTICLE 20: ACCEPTANCE OF MGL CHAPTER 32 B, SECTION 18 – MEDICARE HEALTH BENEFITS FOR TOWN RETIREES

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c. 32B, Section 18, requiring that all eligible retirees of the Town utilize the federal Medicare program for health insurance, by voting that the Town shall require all retirees, their spouses and dependents who are enrolled in Medicare Part A at no cost to a retiree, his/her spouse or dependents, or eligible for coverage thereunder at no cost to a retiree, his/her spouse or dependents, to enroll in a medicare health benefits supplement plan offered by the Town, or take any action relative thereto.

SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen/Town Manager

Commentary: Acceptance of Section 18 will require all Medicare eligible Town & School retirees to migrate from the Town's active health benefit plans to the Town's Medicare supplement plans. While the majority of retirees are on the Medicare supplement plans, a small number of retirees are commingled within the Town's active plans. This adversely affects the Town's claims experience which is a component of the rate setting process. The Medicare supplement plans offer comparable benefits, depending on the retiree's choice of plan, and offer nationwide access. Retirees will not lose the ability to be insured and the Town's contribution will remain the same with the Town paying 80% of retiree's health insurance premium. The benefits offered are comparable to the existing active plans, and the Town contributes to Medicare for any employee hired after 1986. This part of a strategy to identify cost savings to the Town and to mitigate future increase to subscribers. At the time of the writing of this commentary, it is recommended to postpone any action until the Fall Annual Town Meeting (11/06) to further review of comprehensive cost saving measures. Enrollment for these plans occur in January 2008. For further description of MGL, please see: <http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/32b-18.htm>

MOTION: No motion.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: No recommendation. There will be no motion on the article.

VOTE NEEDED: N/A

ARTICLE 21: ASSOCIATE PLANNING BOARD MEMBER

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Uxbridge Zoning By-laws as allowed under MGL C.40A S.9 by adding a new Section XV to read as follows “The Town Manager may appoint one associate member to the Planning Board who may sit on the Board for the purposes of acting on a special permit application, in the case of absence, inability to act, or conflict of interest, on the part of any member of the Planning Board or in the event of a vacancy on the Board” and renumber the By-law accordingly; or take any other action relative thereto.

SPONSOR: Planning Board

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Commentary: *Special Permits require a “super majority” vote of four members. The Associate member will serve in place of a Planning Board member to retain the Board composition of five members. Such action will provide for better efficiencies to applicants in the hearing process, in the case a member is absent more than two meetings or has to recuse him/herself and is permissible under state statute. Town Counsel advised that a Charter amendment is not required (5/1/07).*

MOTION: Move to amend the Uxbridge Zoning Bylaws as allowed under MGL C.40A S.9 by adding a new Section XV to read as follows: “The Town Manager may appoint one associate member to the Planning Board who may sit on the board for the purposes of acting on a special permit application, in the case of absence, inability to act, or conflict of interest, on the part of any member of the Planning Board or in the event of a vacancy on the Board” and renumber the Bylaws accordingly.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable action (5-2). The Committee feels that approval of this article will increase the efficiency of the planning process and will benefit the community. An amendment to the Charter is required in concert with this bylaw.

VOTE NEEDED: Requires a 2/3 vote and a Planning Board report.